

House Bill 216

By: Representatives Porter of the 143rd, Hugley of the 133rd, Randall of the 138th, Ashe of the 56th, Jamieson of the 28th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 uniform reporting system for certain purposes, so as to provide that the reporting system
3 based on a "B" average to determine eligibility for HOPE and other postsecondary
4 scholarships will become effective only upon the development and implementation of a
5 minimum state-wide standard for honors courses; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 20-2-157 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the uniform
10 reporting system for certain purposes, is amended by revising subsections (b) and (c) and
11 adding a new subsection (d) as follows:

12 "(b) Beginning ~~May 1, 2007~~ on the date indicated in subsection (d) of this Code section,
13 each school system and private school shall adopt the reporting system described in this
14 subsection for purposes of identifying and qualifying graduating seniors for the HOPE
15 scholarship program and other programs identified in this Code section:

16 (1) Each school system and private school shall transmit, in a manner and at times
17 prescribed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, an electronic transcript of
18 courses and course grades for each graduating senior that reflects the complete high
19 school academic record of the student, including scores on any state tests required for
20 graduation, the grading scales used by the school system or private school for the time
21 periods referenced by the transcripts, and any other pertinent information as determined
22 by the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Each grade reported by a school system or
23 private school to the commission for the purpose of calculating the grade point average
24 for HOPE scholarship eligibility shall be the actual grade earned by the student, with no
25 weighting or addition of points by the local school system or private school;

(2) The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate a grade point average for the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship from these electronic transcripts and shall notify students of their eligibility and high schools as to the eligibility of students;

(3) For students otherwise qualified and enrolling as freshmen students in eligible public or private postsecondary institutions for the first time on ~~May 1, 2007~~ the date indicated in subsection (d) of this Code section, or thereafter, the Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate grade point averages for determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this Code section as follows:

(A) For students receiving a college preparatory diploma, each grade for a student in attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign language that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement for the college preparatory curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0; or

(B) For students receiving a career/technical diploma, each grade for a student in attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, and social studies that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement for the career/technical curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0.

Grades for coursework that is classified as advanced placement or international baccalaureate shall be weighted by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in calculating the overall grade point averages for students, provided that the weighting of such course grades is uniformly applied to all students in the state taking the specified coursework. The sum of the equated grades shall be divided by the number of course grades, adjusted for term length, to yield a grade point average on a 4.0 scale;

(4) Qualification for the HOPE scholarship shall be determined from the grade point average calculated as set out in paragraph (3) of this subsection. Beginning ~~May 1, 2007~~ on the date indicated in subsection (d) of this Code section, students with grade point averages equal to or in excess of 3.0 on the 4.0 scale with a college preparatory diploma shall meet achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship; students receiving a career/technical diploma shall meet achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship with a grade point average equal to or in excess of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. This paragraph shall apply regardless of when a student graduated from high school and regardless of such student's eligibility status prior to ~~May 1, 2007~~ the date indicated in subsection (d) of this Code section; and

(5) Beginning ~~May 1, 2007~~ on the date indicated in subsection (d) of this Code section, only the reporting system as indicated in this subsection shall be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to attend colleges or universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this title and eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1.

(c)(1) Prior to ~~May 1, 2007~~ the date indicated in subsection (d) of this Code section, each school system shall adopt the following reporting system for purposes of identifying and qualifying graduating seniors for the HOPE scholarship program and other programs identified in this Code section:

(A) A final grade average of at least an 80 numeric average in their core curriculum subjects, provided that the student meets the college preparatory curriculum requirements; or

(B) A final grade average of at least an 85 numeric average in their core curriculum subjects if the student meets the career/technical curriculum requirements.

(2) Prior to ~~May 1, 2007~~ the date indicated in subsection (d) of this Code section, only the reporting system as indicated in this subsection shall be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to attend colleges or universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this title and eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1.

(d) Subsection (b) of this Code section shall be effective upon the establishment and implementation by the State Board of Education of minimum state-wide standards for honors courses. Prior to such time, subsection (c) of this Code section shall be in effect."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.